GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
ORIGINALITY OF TEHELKA TAPES
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bureau of Forensic Science, London has certified that the Tehelka tapes on corruption in defence deals are original and not tampered with;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the steps taken to expedite Phukan Commission of Inquiry;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check corruption in defence deals;

(e) whether the Government has received any representation from the Tehelka Managing Director demanding compensation for victimisation; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The Bureau of Forensic Science, London was commissioned by the Justice Phukan Commission to examine the authenticity of the Tehelka tapes and explain any anomalies. It would not be appropriate for the Government of India to comment on the report as the matter is under consideration of the commission.

(c) The Justice Phukan Commission of Inquiry has been appointed on 24.3.2001 under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952. The Government of India has rendered all assistance required by the Commission in its deliberation. The term of the Commission has been extended upto 3rd October, 2004.

(d) A Defence Procurement Board consisting of senior officers of the Ministry, three services and Defence Finance wing has been set up. The new Defence Procurement Procedure has sought to remove the deficiencies of the earlier system by making it more precise, remove ambiguities, delineate responsibilities, and make it more transparent. By introducing collective responsibility the procedure has speeded up decision making. It also provides for adequate cross checks and counter checks.

(e) & (f): The Ministry of Defence has not received any representation from the Tehelka Managing Director for compensation.